

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 31, 2006



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## City of Eugene

777 Pearl Street, Room 105  
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793  
(541) 682-5010  
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

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### AROUND THE CITY

#### Human Rights Program Moves

The Human Rights Program has moved to a new location. Human Rights Program staff members Greg Rikhoff, Francisca Leyva-Johnson, and Karen Hyatt moved from Room 105 in City Hall to a street-level office at 833 Willamette Street.

The new location, named the Human Rights Center, will provide more direct access to the Human Rights Program resources. The space is also ideal for human rights-related meetings, presentations, events, and displays. The 2,500 square foot space, at street level on Willamette Street, has offices, a conference room, a small kitchen, and an open common area.

The organizational relationships remain the same. The Human Rights Program will continue to be a section of the City Manager's Office division of Central Services.

All phone numbers for staff will also remain the same - Greg Rikhoff, 682-8439; Francisca Leyva-Johnson, 682-8442; and Karen Hyatt, 682-5619. The phone number for Human Rights Program information and reception remains 682-5177. For more information contact Mary Walston at 682-5406 or any of the Human Rights Program staff.

#### Emergency Medical Services – UO Football Games

This week, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel from the Eugene Fire & EMS Department are gearing up for EMS responses at University of Oregon football games. The first football game kicks-off this weekend at 12:30 p.m. against the Stanford Cardinal. Eugene Fire & EMS participates with the University of Oregon by contracting to cover medical emergencies at Autzen Stadium. Four teams of two medics each, a field unit with two medics and two Chief Officers will be provided for each home game.

The temperature is expected to reach 90 degrees at this weekend's game, and many heat-related issues are anticipated. EMS personnel expects to see all types of medical incidents from heat-related, cardiac, diabetic or stroke, to trauma, as well as alcohol-related issues. Game attendance is typically between 55,000 and 60,000 people at Autzen Stadium, which is close to the population size of Springfield, Oregon. For more information please contact EMS Chief JoAnna Kamppi at 682-7130.

### **New Crosswalk to Improve Safety for Churchill High School Students**

Students returning to Churchill High School next week will find a new crosswalk in place on Bailey Hill Road at Westleigh Street. The new crosswalk is being installed by the Eugene Public Works Department at the urging of Churchill area neighbors.

"We worked closely with the neighbors to find solutions that are practical and address safety concerns," said City Traffic Engineer Tom Larsen. "Traffic conditions have changed since the crosswalk was initially installed. This new design fits the traffic patterns we're seeing today."

The biggest change is removing the crosswalk on Bailey Hill Road on the north side of Westleigh Street and painting a new crosswalk on Bailey Hill on the south side of Westleigh. Signs closing the north side crosswalk will be included in the project, and students will be directed to use the new crosswalk when crossing Bailey Hill. The change means that students will have to cross only one street (Bailey Hill) to walk to the commercial area south of Westleigh. It also helps reduce conflict between students crossing Bailey Hill and traffic from Westleigh Street and the fire station on Bailey Hill Road. The existing flasher for southbound traffic on Bailey Hill Road will remain in place, while the flasher for northbound traffic on Bailey Hill will be relocated about 30 feet south of the new crosswalk. Crews will add "stop here for pedestrians" signage at both flashers. In addition, new accessible pedestrian ramps will be constructed and the existing yellow curb markings will be repainted.

Public Works crews anticipate having all the work done before school begins on September 5. Groups that have worked with the Public Works Department on finding safety solutions include the Westwood and Westleigh homeowners associations, Eugene School District, and Eugene Police Department. For more information, contact Traffic Engineer Tom Larsen at 682-4959.

### **Application Deadline for Boards and Commissions Draws Near**

Friday, September 8, is the deadline for submitting applications to serve on City boards, committees and commissions. There have been recent resignations from several groups, increasing the need for a vigorous pool of applicants. This is the updated list of vacancies:

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|--|-------------|
| • Budget Committee                         | 2 vacancies |
| • Human Rights Commission                  | 5 vacancies |
| • Planning Commission                      | 3 vacancies |
| • Police Commission                        | 4 vacancies |
| • Toxics Board                             | 2 vacancies |
| • Eugene Redevelopment Advisory Committee  | 2 vacancies |
| • Whilamut Natural Area Planning Committee | 2 vacancies |

In addition to the application, a supplemental questionnaire is required for the Budget Committee, Human Rights Commission, Planning Commission, Police Commission, Toxics Board and Whilamut Natural Area Citizen Planning Committee. Both the application and supplemental questionnaires are available on the City's website or at the City Manager's Office.

The City Council is set to interview candidates for the Budget Committee, Human Rights Commission, Planning Commission, and Toxics Board the week of October 2. The Mayor may interview candidates for the Police Commission and Whilamut Committee during the same week; the Mayor nominates candidate for these two bodies. The formal appointments to the boards, commissions and committees are set for Monday, October 25. For more information, check the City's website at [www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov) or call Mary Walston at 682-5406.

### **EPA Visits Wastewater Division to Check on Performance Track Program**

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Performance Track program spent Wednesday, August 23, at the Eugene/Springfield Regional Water Pollution Control Facility. The City's Wastewater Division, which provides operations and maintenance services for the regional wastewater facilities, is a member of the Performance Track program, which is structured for companies and organizations that have formal Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and that commit to exceeding industry standards for environmental performance. The Wastewater Division is the only municipal wastewater agency that has been accepted into the program.



EPA periodically conducts site visits to Performance Track members to evaluate implementation of their environmental objectives, assess progress in meeting performance commitments and public outreach activities, and to build relationships with the members. The EPA representatives said they were impressed with the Wastewater Division's EMS and the achievements for improvement of environmental performance, and indicated that the division met their expectations for continued membership in the Performance Track program. An official assessment report will be prepared in a few weeks. For more information, contact Wastewater Division Director Peter Ruffier at 682-8606.

### **Senator Wyden's Natural Resources Counsel Tours Priority Natural Areas**

The Parks and Open Space Division's Natural Resources staff led a tour for U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's new Natural Resources Counsel, Michele Miranda. The group was joined by staff from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lane Council of Governments, and The Nature Conservancy.



The afternoon tour highlighted some of Eugene's highest priority natural resource projects including Forest Legacy, Coyote Creek Study Area as a potential unit of the Finley National Wildlife Refuge, West Eugene Wetlands Education Center, and a stop at Checkermallow Access to discuss the Metro Waterways study and future Army Corps of Engineers projects. For more information contact Sarah Medary, natural resources manager, at [sarah.j.medary@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:sarah.j.medary@ci.eugene.or.us) or 682-4842.

### **Fall Opportunities for Teens @ Eugene Public Library**



Teens are invited to apply for the next eight-week session of Teen Team at the Eugene Public Library. Teen Team helps Downtown Library staff get items ready for check-out, keeps books in order, prepares crafts projects for kids' programs, cleans books, creates displays, and more. This service learning project is a great way to support the Library, meet new friends, and contribute ideas and opinions. Plus, teens can earn community service credit for school. Teen Team meets Tuesdays, 4 – 5 p.m., starting September 26. Applications must be received by September 5.

Make Your Own Movies is an extraordinary chance for teens to get hands-on training with video professionals at the Downtown Library. Learn to plan, storyboard, script, shoot, and edit with Apple iMovie. Metro TV teaches a six-week workshop for teens, including group and individual sessions, starting September 26. Cameras and computers are provided for class use. Make Your Own Movies is free of charge, but space is limited, so interested teens should

apply now. For information or to apply, visit the Downtown Library's Young Adult Desk or call 682-8316.

### **Coburg Road Repairs Planned as Radar Confirms Site of Underground Bridge**

Public Works Engineering staff has nearly completed research on the Coburg Road slump area where a 120-year-old bridge was found. A broken storm pipe allowing material to enter the pipe and be carried away was identified as the primary reason for the slumping at this location. Over time, many jurisdictions have worked in the area, so accurate infrastructure records were difficult to obtain. Instead, ground-penetrating radar was used to locate the old bridge and to find underground utilities and voids created by the broken storm pipe.

The bridge remnants were found to be 20 feet long and approximately 34 feet wide and mostly contained within the southbound lanes of Coburg Road. The uppermost remnants are approximately three feet

below the asphalt surface of the roadway. It appears that repair work can be completed leaving the bridge remnants intact.

The slumping area is being monitored for movement and has been moving since the investigation began just a few weeks ago. The repair is a high priority and most likely will occur within the next six to eight weeks. To minimize disruption, it is anticipated the project will be limited to night work and will occur in phases to avoid major road closures. The repair should take less than a week to complete. Public notification in advance of the work is being planned. For more information, contact Principal Civil Engineer Michelle Cahill at 682-6855

#### **Newly Aligned Section of Airport Road Scheduled to Open on Friday**

Motorists traveling to and from the Eugene Airport should find the going smoother starting Friday, September 1, as the newly aligned section of Airport Road is open to traffic. The new alignment shifts Airport Road to the south of the new parallel runway to provide a safer distance between vehicles on the road and planes using the new runway. It also establishes Airport Road as the direct route to and from the airport by reconfiguring the intersection of Airport Road and Green Hill Road West and eliminating the stops on Airport Road. The City of Eugene designed and managed the \$2.5 million project on a Lane County road with funding primarily from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The road realignment is the final phase of the FAA-funded project to construct a new airport runway, which opened in September 2005.

In the design of the new roadway, care was taken to avoid existing wetlands, and water quality swales were included to manage stormwater. The opening of the new roadway marks substantial completion of the project, which began in June. Remaining work includes finishing the transition at Green Hill Road East and old Airport Road, relocating the airfield fence to the center of the abandoned section of Airport Road, seeding, mulching and landscaping at the entrance to the airport, and installing miscellaneous signs and permanent light poles. This work is expected to have minimal impact on the traveling public. For more information, contact Teri Higgins, project engineer, at 682-8462.

#### **"Spiritual Heart, Scientific Mind" First Friday @ the Downtown Library**

On First Friday @ the Downtown Library, September 1, 6 p.m., quantum physicist Dr. Amit Goswami is back by popular demand to talk about integrating the scientific mind with the spiritual heart. He shares "how the principles of quantum physics can help you tap into inner creativity, deepen spirituality, and live a life of liberation and fulfillment."

Amit Goswami, Ph.D. is professor emeritus in the University of Oregon's physics department where he has served since 1968. A pioneer of the new paradigm known as "science within consciousness," Goswami has written textbooks and popular books on the subject, and was a featured expert in the 2004 film *What the #\$\*! Do We Know!?*.

At 7 p.m., the Palmer Lavin Duo plays classic jazz of the 30s and 40s featuring swinging vocals. Experienced performers Sally Palmer and Mark Lavin began working together in the summer of 2002 when they were featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Oregon Art Beat" show. Since then, the duo has delighted audiences at many Oregon events, including Jazz at Newport and the Salem Arts Fair. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 682-5450.